

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 416 736

HE 030 782

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TITLE Good Teaching: A Guide for Students.
ISBN ISBN-0-8093-2111-4
PUB DATE 1997-00-00
NOTE 48p.
AVAILABLE FROM Southern Illinois University Press, P.O. Box 3697,
Carbondale, IL 62902-3697; phone: 618-453-2281 (\$7.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS College Administration; College Faculty; *College
Instruction; College Students; *Educational Attitudes;
Graduate Study; Higher Education; *Learning Experience;
Publish or Perish Issue; Self Management; *Teacher
Effectiveness; *Undergraduate Study

ABSTRACT

This book is a guide to students on the nature and quality of teaching at colleges and universities. It discusses the need for students to take responsibility for their own learning at the college level and not depend on college professors to "teach" them everything they need to know. The book notes that most professors have had little or no formal training in teaching, and that at most universities professorial research is emphasized (and rewarded) more than teaching. It goes on to explain the structure of colleges and universities and the growing trend that emphasizes research over teaching at most institutions. Despite this dichotomy between research and teaching, the book points out that the best researchers are often the best teachers, in that they are the most committed to their discipline and therefore have the most to offer diligent students. It suggests that students select a major that they really like and take courses taught by professors from whom they can learn the most and not necessarily those who are most popular. (Contains 12 references.) (MDM)

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